# Check-Out These Gread Reads for Black History Month!

### Preschool-K

✓Bigmama's by Donald Crews. The family makes their annual summer visit to their grandmother's house - Big Mama's.

✓Please, Baby Please by Spike Lee. The noted film director/producer and his wife recall some of the "surprises" that came with raising their own two children in this exuberant picture book that explodes with all the energy of childhood and concludes with the patience, understanding, and unconditional love of a parent.

√Jamaica's Find by Juanita Havill. Jamaica finds a stuffed toy dog at the park and must decide
whether to find the original owner or keep the dog for herself.

#### **Grades 1 - 3**

✓Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman. Grace loved to act out the stories she read. She learns that she can be anything she want to be, including Peter Pan in the school play. Grace's story continues in **Boundless** Grace.

✓Bill Picket, Rodeo Ridin' Cowboy by Andrea Pikney. The true story of the most famous black rodeo rider.

✓The Talking Cloth by Rhonda Mitchell. Energetic Aunt Phoebe, a "collector" of life, shows her niece Amber a finely embroidered and hand-printed "adinkra" cloth from Ghana, which was at one point reserved for royalty. Using her imagination, Amber is transformed by the "adinkra" into an Ashanti princess.

#### Grades 4-6

✓ Many Thousand Gone: African-Americans From Slavery to Freedom by Virginia Hamilton. This book recounts the journey of Black people from slavery to freedom via the underground railroad. This is an excellent and informative historical resource.

✓The Friendship and The Gold Cadillac by Mildred D. Taylor. Two memorable stories about growing up Black in America - one from the South and one from the North. *The Friendship* is about Cassie Logan's old neighbor who dares to call a white storekeeper by his first name. *The Gold Cadillac* is about a family who own a gold Cadillac and the experiences they have when they take their car to the South where some people don't think Blacks should own such fancy cars.

√The Jacket by Andrew Clements. A compelling exploration of race relations by the bestselling author of
"Frindle." Phil is a sixth grader on a mission: to find his little brother and give him his lunch money. But, in
the events that follow, Phil will be forced to examine his own racist thoughts and how they play out in his life.

## Junior High/High School

✓Slam! by Walter Dean Myers. Greg "Slam" Harris can do it all on the basketball court. He knows he's got what it takes to go all the way to the top. Slam's grades aren't so hot, though, and when his teachers jam his troubles in his face, he blows up.

✓The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis. The humorous story of ten-year-old Kenny and his family as they got to Burmingham to visit grandma. Their visit turns tragic as they enounter firsthand the violence against blacks during the Civil Rights Era.







